BLAM!

SALVATION'S GATE
DAVE THORPE
MIKE HADLEY

THE LEGION OF NORMAL PEOPLE
IAN EDGINTON
GROC

A SINGLE ENGLISH ROSE
E.C. PERRIMAN

MISSION X
RORY LITTLE
RALPH ATKINSON

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AND NOW WE ARE TWO. Yes fans, the verdict is in, and the verdict is *WOW!* The first issue of *BLAAM!* (or 'the big soft free one' as we like to call it) disappeared faster than you could say, "Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's . . . " In fact, so great was the demand for *BLAAM!* that with our next issue — out at the end of January — the print run is being tripled to 30,000! For those timid souls among you who were perhaps a trifle hesitant and wanted to know what the catch was — well, there is none! *BLAAM!* is free thanks to the sponsorship of our advertisers and the generosity of Titan Distributors, who are distributing *BLAAM!* to record and comics shops all over the country completely free of charge! And remember, not only does the support of the advertisers enable us to give *BLAAM!* away, but it gives artists a decent page rate immediately upon publication! And, of course, artists retain all the rights to their work, which could be why we'll be having the *Someplace Strange* team of Ann Nocenti and John Bolton doing a story in *BLAAM!* 4 — Oops! Let the cat out of the bag, didn't I?!

BLAAM!, Volume 1, Number 2, December 1988. Published every six weeks by Willyprods/Small Time Ink Ltd, 29 Belsize Park, London NW3 4DX. Editor: Lionel Gracey-Whitman. Consulting editor: Don Melia. Logo and design: Trevs Phoenix.
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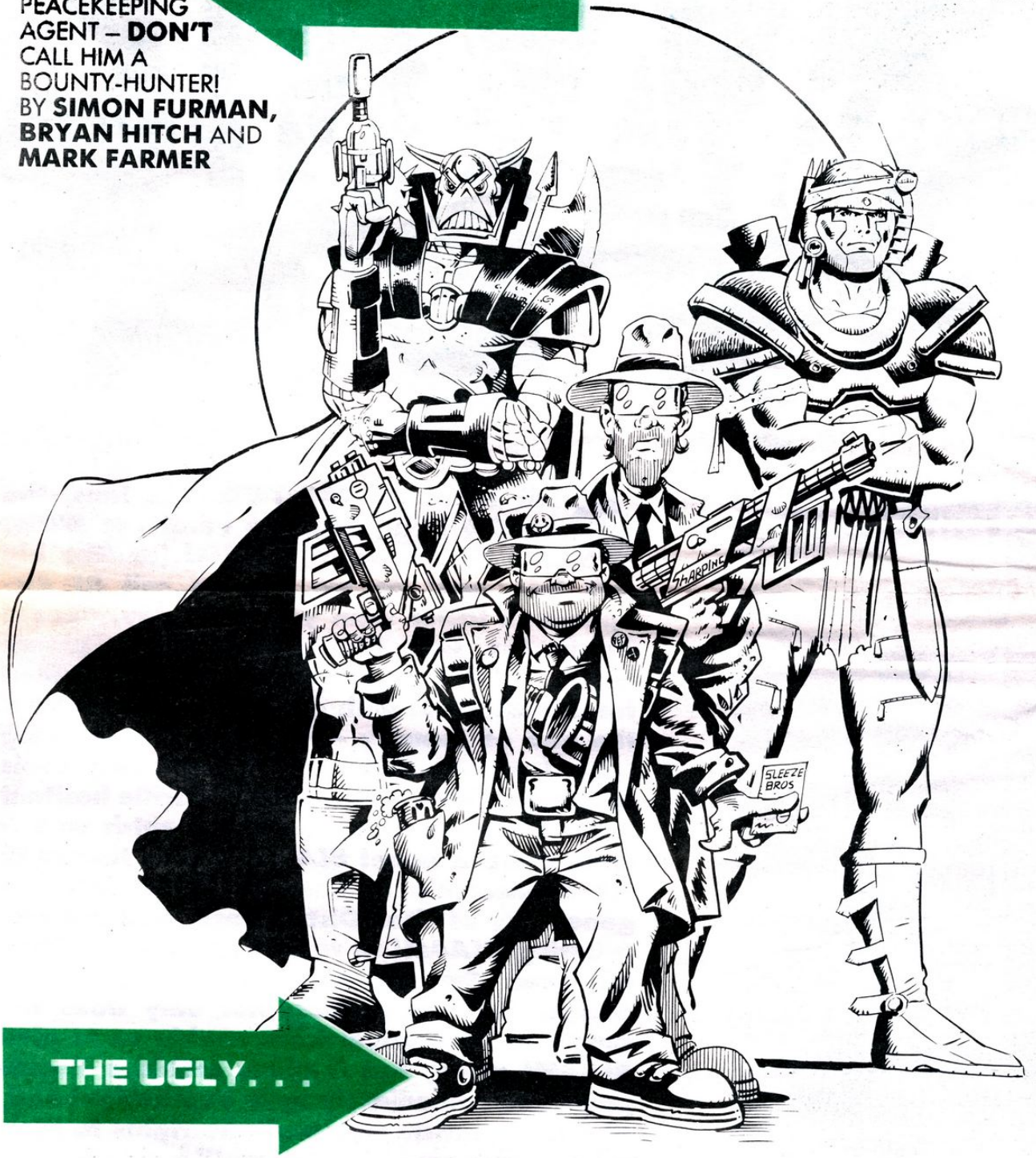
THE GOOD. . .

DRAGON'S CLAWS
FIGHTING TO MAKE EARTH, 8162 A BETTER PLACE!
BY **SIMON FURMAN** AND **GEOFF SENIOR**

THE BAD. . .

DEATH'S HEAD
FREELANCE PEACEKEEPING AGENT – **DON'T** CALL HIM A BOUNTY-HUNTER!
BY **SIMON FURMAN, BRYAN HITCH** AND **MARK FARMER**



THE UGLY. . .

THE SLEEZE BROTHERS (PI) ANYTIME, ANYPLANET, **ANYTHING!**
BY **JOHN CARNELL, ANDY LANNING** AND **DAVE HINE**

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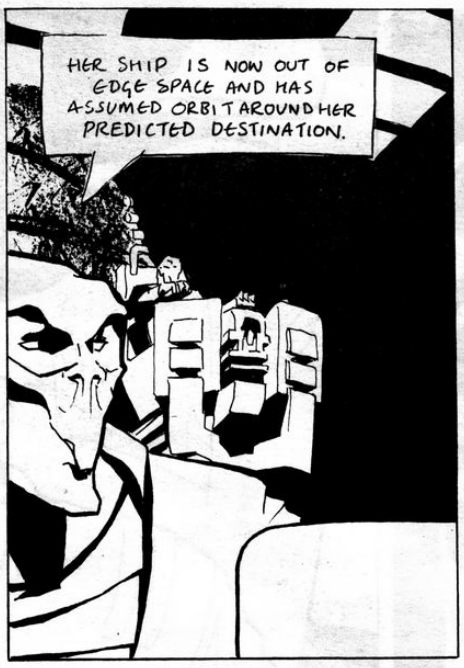
A FISTFUL OF FULL COLOUR COMICS COMING YOUR WAY EVERY MONTH FROM MARVEL UK.

A SINGLE ENGLISH ROSE

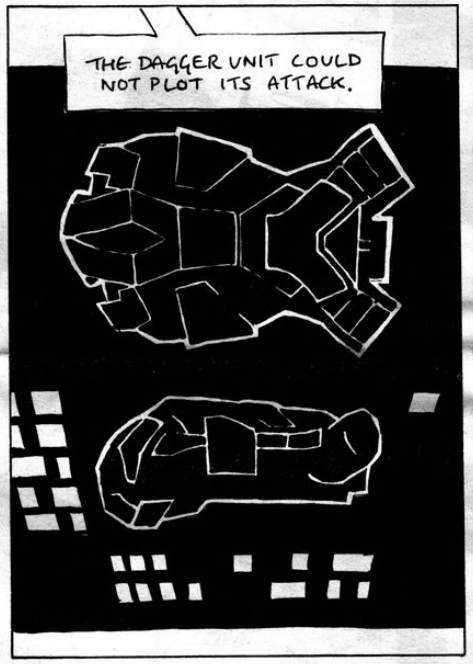
2 fee fi fo fum

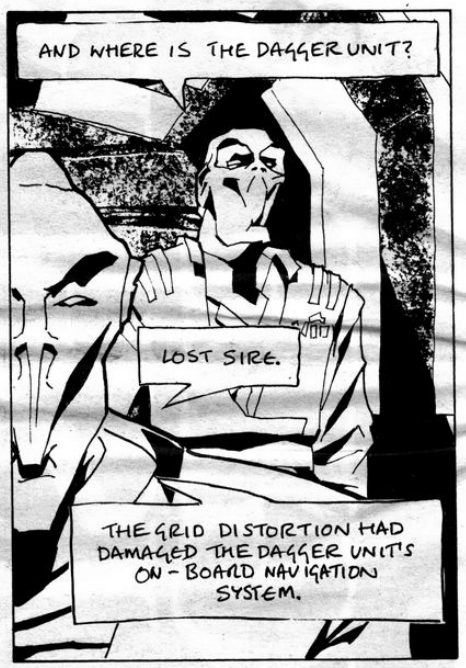
WHERE IS SHE NOW?


HER SHIP IS NOW OUT OF EDGE SPACE AND HAS ASSUMED ORBIT AROUND HER PREDICTED DESTINATION.

THEN THE DAGGER UNIT HAS FAILED?

YES SIRE
HER SHIP'S PRIMITIVE DRIVE SYSTEM GENERATED SEVERE GRID DISTORTION,


THE DAGGER UNIT COULD NOT PLOT ITS ATTACK.

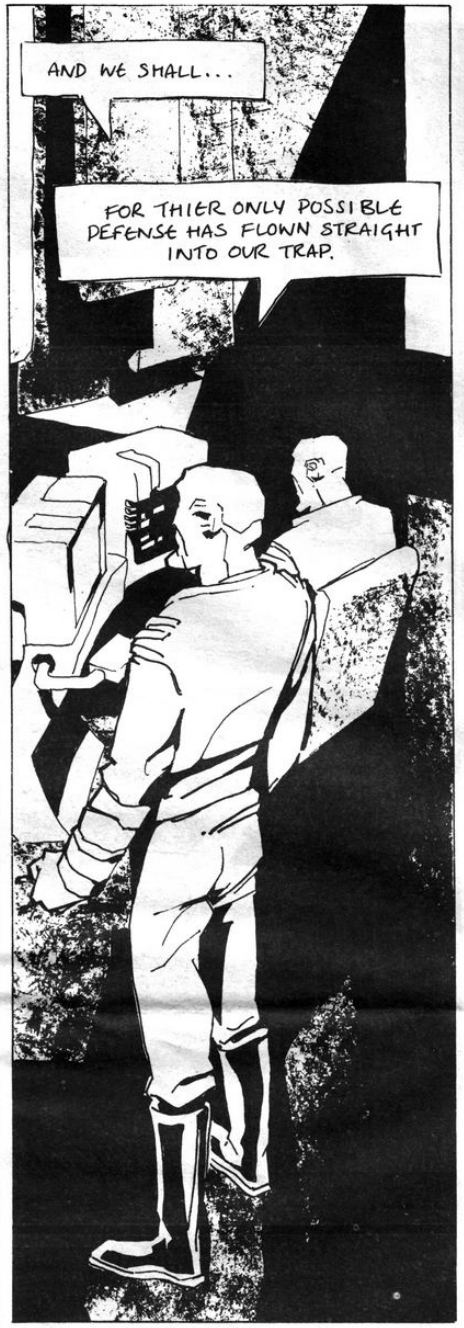

AND WHERE IS THE DAGGER UNIT?
LOST SIRE.
THE GRID DISTORTION HAD DAMAGED THE DAGGER UNIT'S ON-BOARD NAVIGATION SYSTEM.

VERY WELL CAPTAIN.
HE DIED FOR PEACE,

HE SHALL BE REWARDED BY THE GODS.

A SMALL PRICE TO PAY..
THIS WEAPON MUST BE DESTROYED!

WE MUST RID OUR GALAXY OF THIS WARM BLOODED VERMIN


AND WE SHALL...
FOR THIER ONLY POSSIBLE DEFENSE HAS FLOWN STRAIGHT INTO OUR TRAP.

TRANSMIT THE ENGAGE CODE TO THE GROUND UNIT AND PREPARE MY SHIP FOR LAUNCH
YES SIRE

I SHALL DESTROY THIS FEMALE THEN ALL TRACE OF THE INFESTED PLANET TO WHICH SHE HAS FLOWN
...THERE WILL BE NOTHING TO STOP US OBLITERATING THE REST OF THIS HUMAN SCUM FROM OUR GALAXY!

WE ARE THE LADS
WE ARE THE LADS
WE ARE THE LADS FROM NORTH-CI-TY

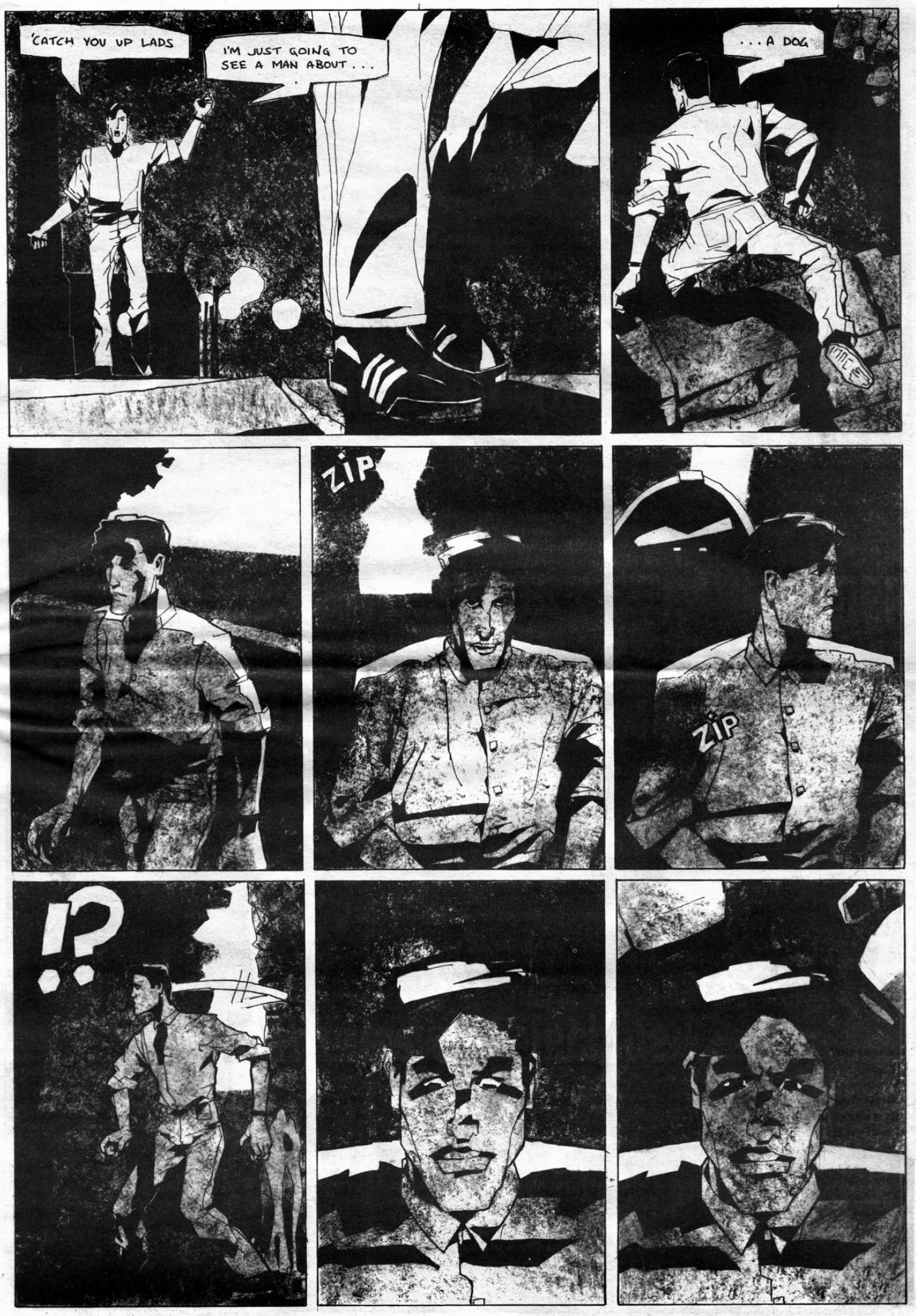
Evil

Complacent evil

...like amongst the lower ranks of our allies.

That one,

he is the weakest


'CATCH YOU UP LADS
I'M JUST GOING TO SEE A MAN ABOUT . . .
. . . A DOG
ZIP
ZIP
!?

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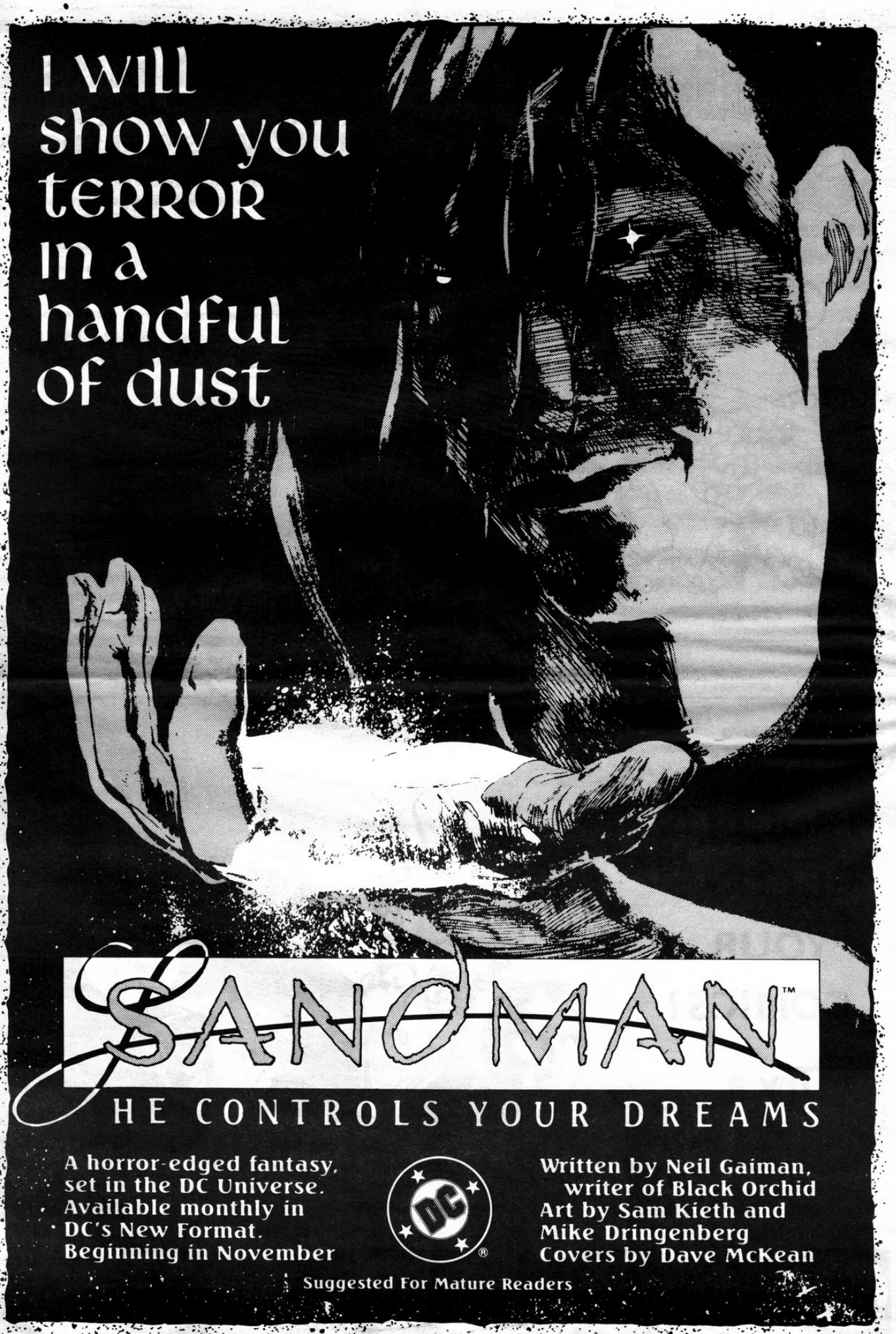

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THE LEGION OF NORMAL PEOPLE

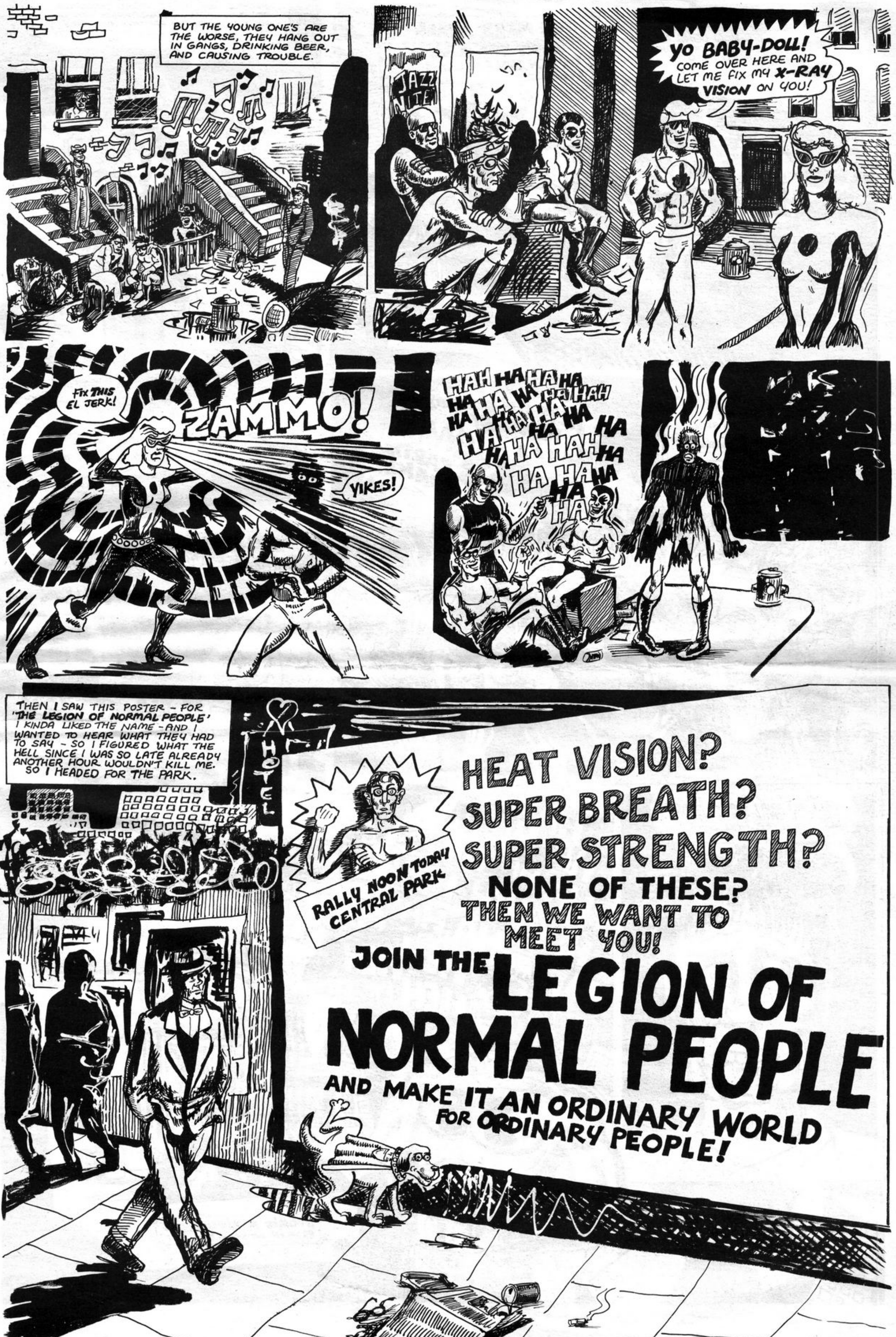
Script: Ian Edginton Scribble: Groc

PATCHING UP THE KITCHEN MADE ME LATE FOR WORK, SO I HAD TO RUSH TO CATCH THE NEXT TRAIN - BUT I NEEDN'T HAVE BOTHERED!
CLOTH
RUN! RUN! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!
YUM! YUM!
MUNCH! MUNCH!
WAR
AAR!
...SOME MONSTER WAS EATING IT!... AS USUAL. THESE CREATURES HAVE NO RESPECT FOR PROPERTY, THEY JUST EAT ANYTHING THEY WANT AND GET AWAY WITH IT. IT'S DISGRACEFUL!

OF COURSE THEN THE MUSCLEHEADS SHOWED UP, JUST WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO SHOW OFF
HEY EDDIE, DID I TELL YA? ZOMBU THE LIVING BLOB ATE MY BROTHER-IN-LAWS HOUSE LAST WEEK. NOW HE'S GOT TO LIVE WITH US AND THE KIDS
THAT'S TOUGH!
HEY! YOU GONNA BE IN THERE ALL DAY?
TELEPHON
TAP! TAP!
IN THE END, I DECIDED TO WALK IT WOULD BE QUICKER!

SUPERHEROES, SUPERVILLAINS, SUPERMONSTERS, SUPERPETS, THEY'RE EVERYWHERE BUT THERE JUST ISN'T THE WORK FOR THEM ALL, SO NOW THEY SPONGE OFF WELFARE
EMPLOYMENT AGENCY
JOIN TH LEGION
KISTY
....AND SO SHE SAYS TO ME 'IT MAY BE THE TALK OF THE GALAXY, BUT IT DOESN'T COME NEAR ME UNTIL YOU WEAR ONE!'
MEN!
MAN, WHAT A BUMMER! SHEEESH!

AND SOME OF THEM REALLY HIT BOTTOM!
SAY, PAL, IF I GIVE YA TWENTY BUCKS WILL YA JUMP OFF A BUILDING AND LET ME SAVE YA WOULD YA? HUH? PLEEEZE?
TOOT $7


BUT THE YOUNG ONE'S ARE THE WORSE, THEY HANG OUT IN GANGS, DRINKING BEER, AND CAUSING TROUBLE.
JAZZ NITE
YO BABY-DOLL! COME OVER HERE AND LET ME FIX MY X-RAY VISION ON YOU!
FIX THIS EL JERK!
ZAMMO!
YIKES!
HAH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HAH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HAH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
THEN I SAW THIS POSTER - FOR 'THE LEGION OF NORMAL PEOPLE' I KINDA LIKED THE NAME - AND I WANTED TO HEAR WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY - SO I FIGURED WHAT THE HELL SINCE I WAS SO LATE ALREADY ANOTHER HOUR WOULDN'T KILL ME. SO I HEADED FOR THE PARK.
HOTEL
RALLY NOON TODAY CENTRAL PARK
HEAT VISION?
SUPER BREATH?
SUPER STRENGTH?
NONE OF THESE?
THEN WE WANT TO MEET YOU!
JOIN THE LEGION OF NORMAL PEOPLE
AND MAKE IT AN ORDINARY WORLD FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE!

BY THE TIME I GOT THERE THINGS WERE ALREADY UNDER WAY.....
...HOW LONG MUST WE SUFFER THE INDIGNITY OF BEING USED AS VICTIMS...
THE MEEK SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH (GIVEN HALF A CHANCE)
...BY THOSE MORE POWERFUL THAN OURSELVES? I TELL YOU PEOPLE WE MUST STAND SHOULDER TO SHOULDER, DETERMINED NOT TO BE SWEPT AWAY BY THIS FLOWING TIDE OF SUPER-POWERED TYRANNY...
HE'D GOT A POINT TO BE SURE, BUT HE WAS TALKING TO THE WRONG PEOPLE, IT WAS THE MUSCLEHEADS WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE! THEY WERE A LITTLE BUSY AT THE TIME THOUGH—
HEY! THE GROUND'S MOVING!
EARTH-QUAKE!
—TRYING TO SAVE US FROM JERUSALEM SMITH—THE MAN WITH THE BAKELITE BRAIN—THE GODFATHER OF SUPERVILLIANS
HI
JS
WELL ALL THAT WAS A WHILE AGO AND THINGS ARE MUCH, MUCH QUIETER NOW...
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HEH HEH HEH! HA HA HA! HA! HEH HEH HEH ETC. ETC.
JS
THE GLASS MAID
...I HOPE MARION HAS PUT MY SUPPER IN THE OVEN! BECAUSE THIS LOOKS LIKE IT COULD TAKE QUITE SOME TIME!!!
ATOMIC MINITURIZER: PLUG IN AND STAND WELL BACK!

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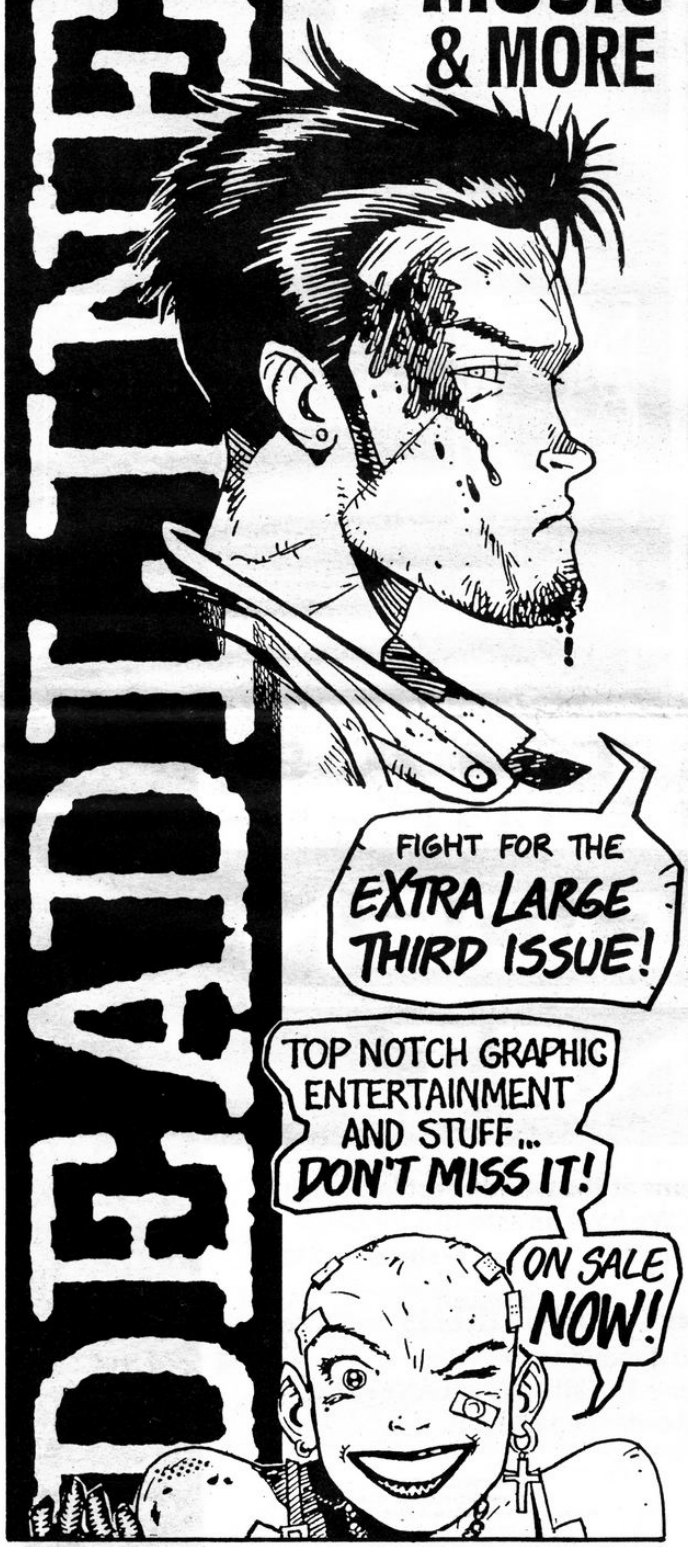

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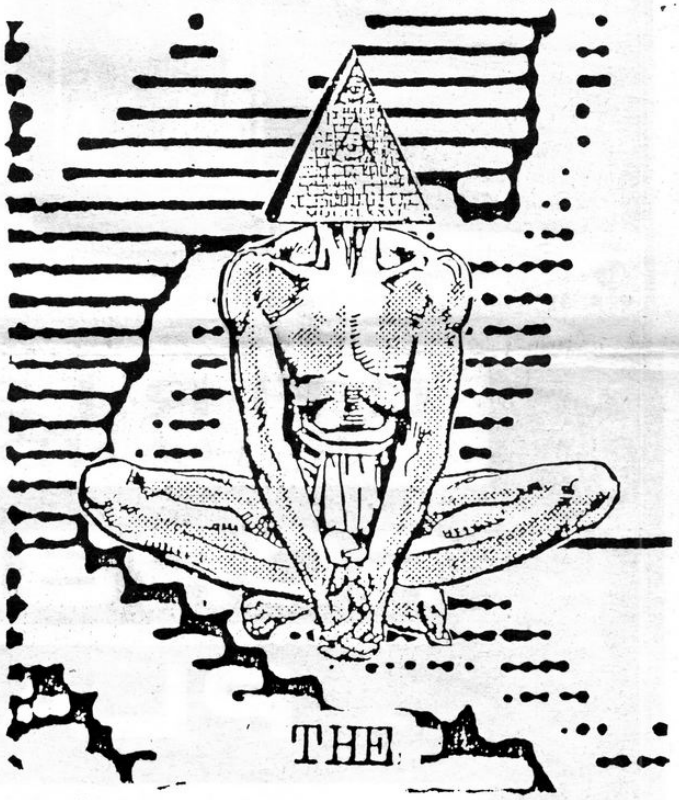

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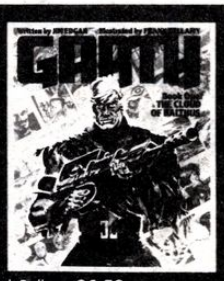
GARTH



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COMING TO LONDON TO FIND A CURE FOR XILLA'S SITHIUM 451 DEFICIENCY, MISSION-X REACH LIL'S BROTHER, SEAN'S LAB, ONLY TO BE AMBUSHED BY A HOARD OF RAX TROOPS. SEAN IS ACTING SUSPICIOUSLY...

KILL! KILL!! KILL THEM ALL!! NOW!!

QUICK, LILLY— OVER HERE!!

HEY!!

SSSSPLAT!!

OOF!

MISSION-X ©

CHAPTER II

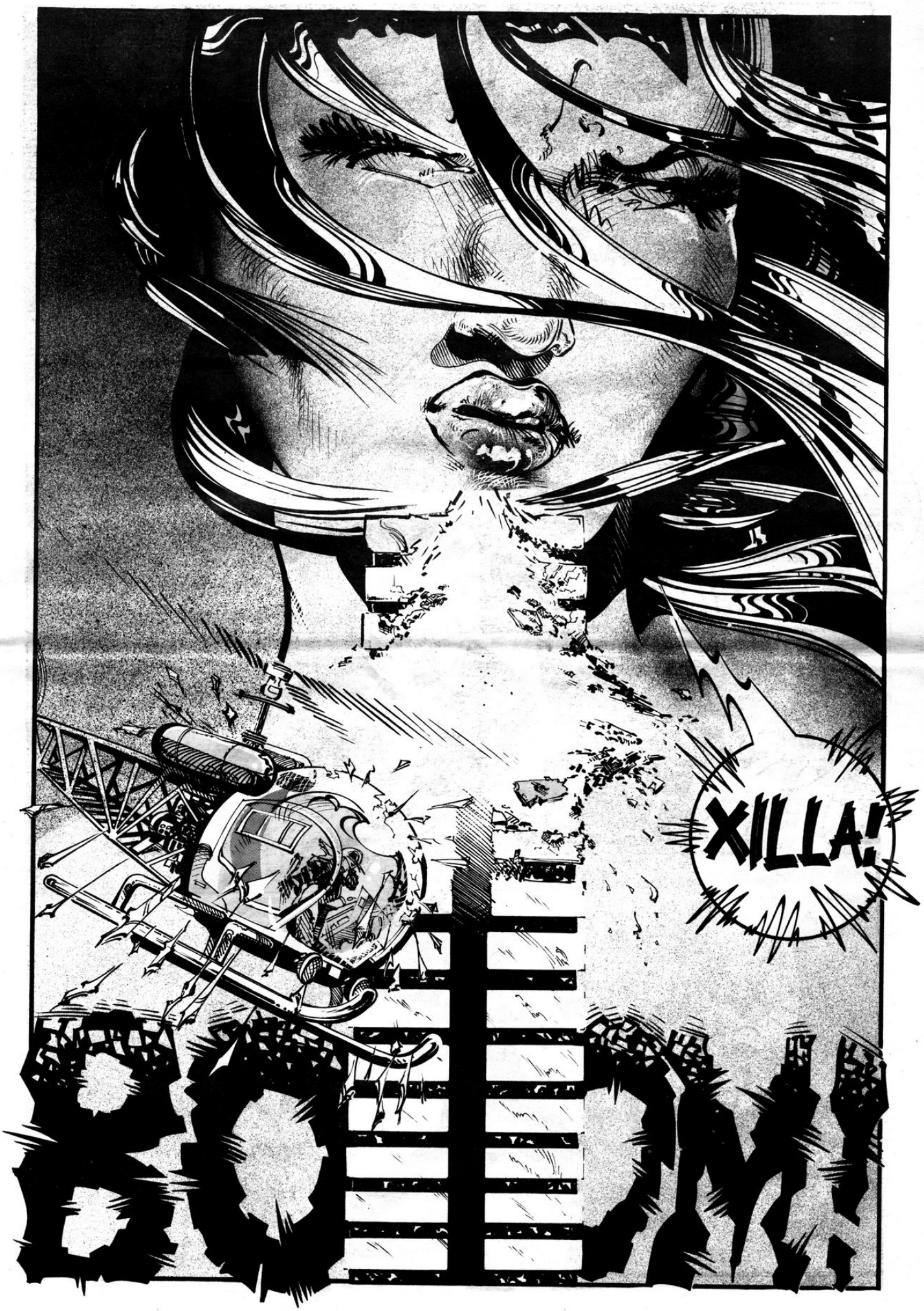
CREATOR: RORY LITTLE

SCRIPT: RALPH ATKINSON.

SEAN!— WE CAN'T LEAVE THEM! ITS DESERTION !!!

WE CAN...

...AND WE HAVE!
UFF!!
WHUMP!!
MASK-UP! WE MUST GET TO SAFETY. YOU'LL NEED THEM IN THE SEWERS!
NO! I'M GOING BACK!
THERE'S NO TIME! THE BOMB I PLANTED IN THE LAB IS DUE TO GO OFF ANY SEC—


XILLA!

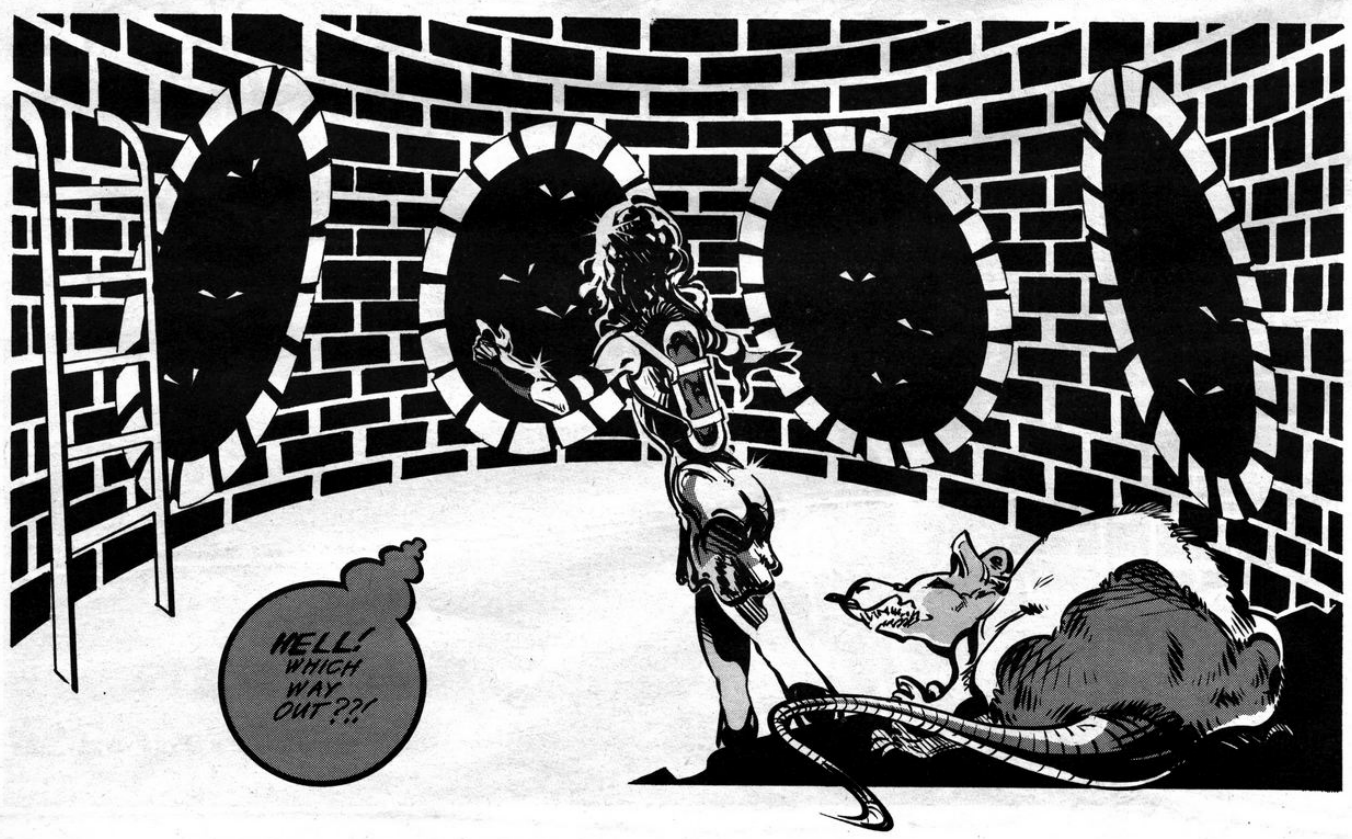
THE... THE BUILDING WAS A RAX BASE...YOU WORKED FOR THEM, SEAN! YOU... YOU BETRAYED MISSION-X!!
SSSPRRRRRRROWS
SPLASH!
AH-EEEE!

GROWR!
SNESH!
HANG ON, LILLY!— I'M COMING! I'M COMING!

L..LILLY ...?

LILLY!!
SWEPT INTO MAIN SEWER ...
LOSING AIR FAST...
GOT TO GET MASK BACK ON ...
GOT TO...
BREAK FREE!!
AND LET THEM COME...
...TO ME!

RAA?!
SLASH!
WHA?!!
WHAT-EVER THAT THING IS— THE DOGS ARE WELCOME TO IT!


HELL! WHICH WAY OUT??!

UH-OH!
RUNCH!!
OH NO! NOT ANOTHER ?!!

RELAX, LIL' X, MISSION-IS COMIN' ATCHA! WE...
CRASH!!
YEAH! WE CAME TO TEACH THE DOGS THAT MEAT IS MURDER AND... JEEZE!!—
THE RATS! SOMEONE'S PSYCHING 'EM!!!
SQUEEK!
SQUEEK!
QUITE SO.
SQUEEK
..LOCATED YOU ON THE TELEP-O SENSOR.
...EVENT-UALLY!
BAM!
WOW! NATURE'S WAY OF SAYING DIE, HUH?
CUT THE CLOWNING, BABE!... STRAFE — WHERE WERE YOU!
OH...
...HUNTING!
ULP!
CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!

THE BEST HAS ARRIVED !!

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What's the last thing to go through a fly's brain before it hits the windscreen?

Its back legs.

THE TRUTH!

THE COMEDY MAGAZINE

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AN AMERICAN TAIL

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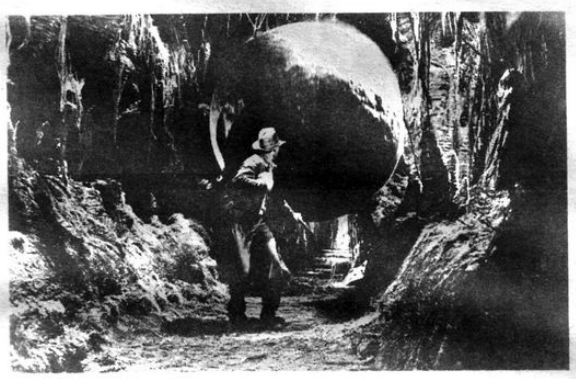


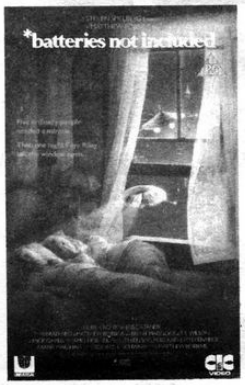
RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK

The hero is here! The thrills never stop as Indiana Jones, whip-cracking archaeologist and adventurer, races from one mysterious and exotic location to the next to try to stop evil Nazis from getting their hands on the lost Ark of the Covenant, whose mystical powers could spell doom for the free world!

BACK TO THE FUTURE

The movie that made a mega-star of Michael J Fox! Time travel at its most paradoxical as teen-ager Marty McFly finds himself propelled back in time to his parents' high-school years — only to have his mother-to-be fall in love with him! But even if he does manage to get his parents to fall back in love again for the first time, how can he get *Back to the Future*?!

*batteries not included



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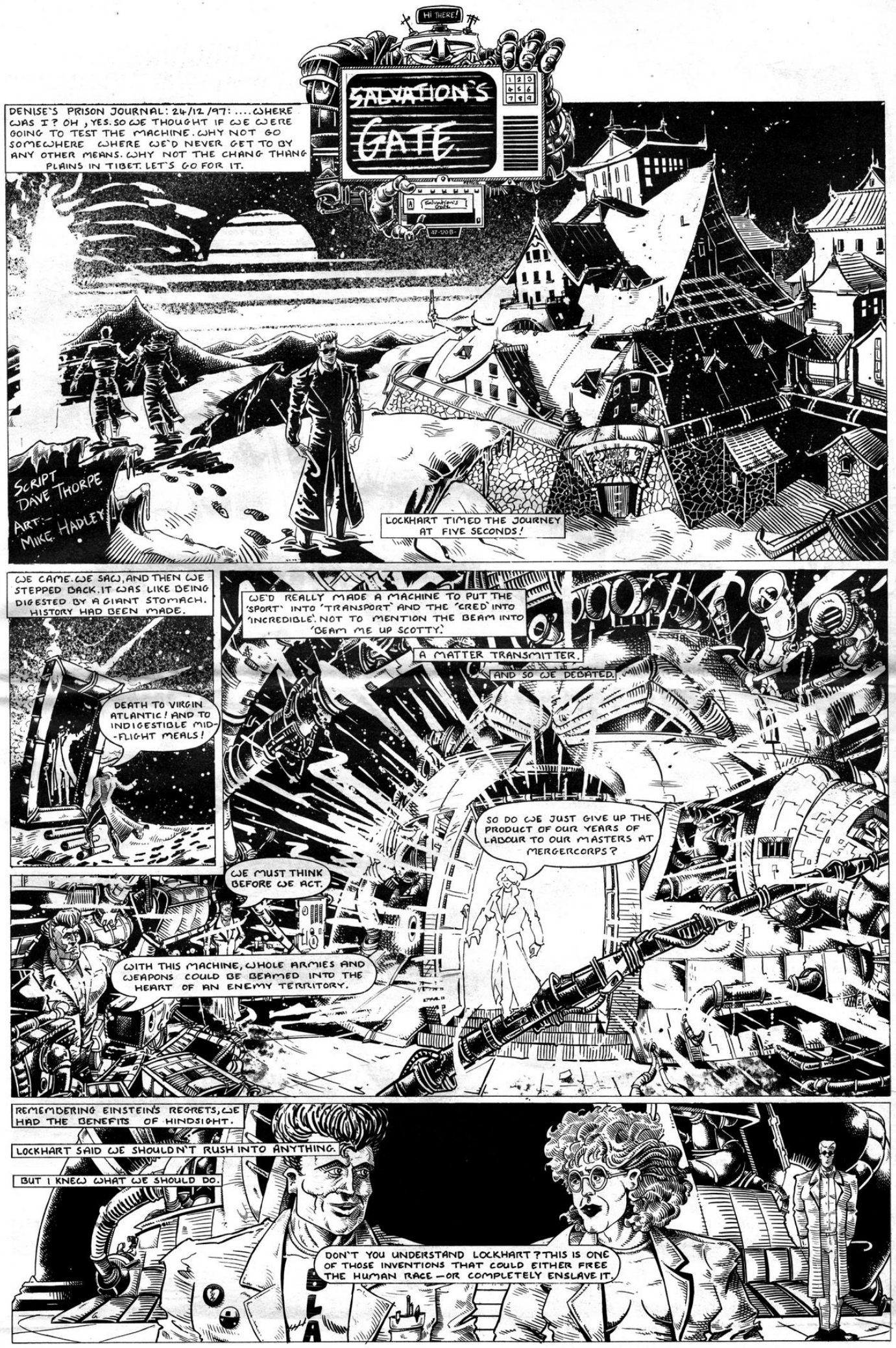

HI THERE!
SALVATION'S GATE
DENISE'S PRISON JOURNAL: 24/12/97: ....WHERE WAS I? OH, YES. SO WE THOUGHT IF WE WERE GOING TO TEST THE MACHINE. WHY NOT GO SOMEWHERE WHERE WE'D NEVER GET TO BY ANY OTHER MEANS. WHY NOT THE CHANG THANG PLAINS IN TIBET. LET'S GO FOR IT.
SCRIPT DAVE THORPE
ART:- MIKE HADLEY
LOCKHART TIMED THE JOURNEY AT FIVE SECONDS!
WE CAME. WE SAW, AND THEN WE STEPPED BACK. IT WAS LIKE BEING DIGESTED BY A GIANT STOMACH. HISTORY HAD BEEN MADE.
DEATH TO VIRGIN ATLANTIC! AND TO INDIGESTIBLE MID-FLIGHT MEALS!
WE'D REALLY MADE A MACHINE TO PUT THE 'SPORT' INTO 'TRANSPORT' AND THE 'CRED' INTO 'INCREDIBLE'. NOT TO MENTION THE BEAM INTO 'BEAM ME UP SCOTTY.'
A MATTER TRANSMITTER.
AND SO WE DEBATED.
SO DO WE JUST GIVE UP THE PRODUCT OF OUR YEARS OF LABOUR TO OUR MASTERS AT MERGERCORPS?
WE MUST THINK BEFORE WE ACT.
WITH THIS MACHINE, WHOLE ARMIES AND WEAPONS COULD BE BEAMED INTO THE HEART OF AN ENEMY TERRITORY.
REMEMBERING EINSTEIN'S REGRETS, WE HAD THE BENEFITS OF HINDSIGHT.
LOCKHART SAID WE SHOULDN'T RUSH INTO ANYTHING.
BUT I KNEW WHAT WE SHOULD DO.
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND LOCKHART? THIS IS ONE OF THOSE INVENTIONS THAT COULD EITHER FREE THE HUMAN RACE — OR COMPLETELY ENSLAVE IT.

DENISE'S JOURNAL 26/12/97:
THIS WAS THE PEROID WHEN WE FELT THE BEST. WITH THIS MACHINE MIRACLES WERE POSSIBLE. BECAUSE IT IS MIRACLES THAT CIRCUMVENT PRACTICAL AND BUREAUCRATIC INHIBITIONS....
MUNCH
WE TOOK SUPPLIES TO THE STARVING IN SUDAN.

WE LIBERATED PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE.
THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD NOT DO. THE EXHILARATION WAS PERFECT.
NEWS
WHITE
MASS ESCAPE

ALMOST NOTHING COULD STOP US... NOT EVEN FIRE AND RAIN.
THE RIGGERS THOUGHT WE WERE ANGELS, COME TO RESCUE THEM.

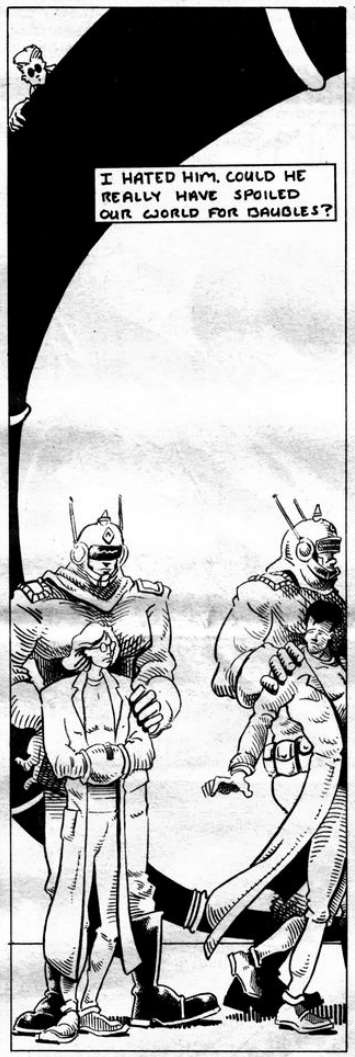
SURELY, THIS WAS SALVATION'S GATE.

...THAT LED INTO PARADISE. A PARADISE THAT PROCLAIMED THE END OF TYRANNY, THE END OF BOUNDARIES, THE END OF MISERY.
AS LOCKHART SAID, NO LOVERS HAVE EVER ENJOYED THE FREEDOM THAT WE'VE WON.
EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE A SALVATION'S GATE

..BUT EVERY PARADISE HAS TWO ENTRANCES. BECAUSE IF IT WAS NOT OPEN TO EVERYONE, IT WOULD N'T BE EVERYONE'S IDEA OF PARADISE....

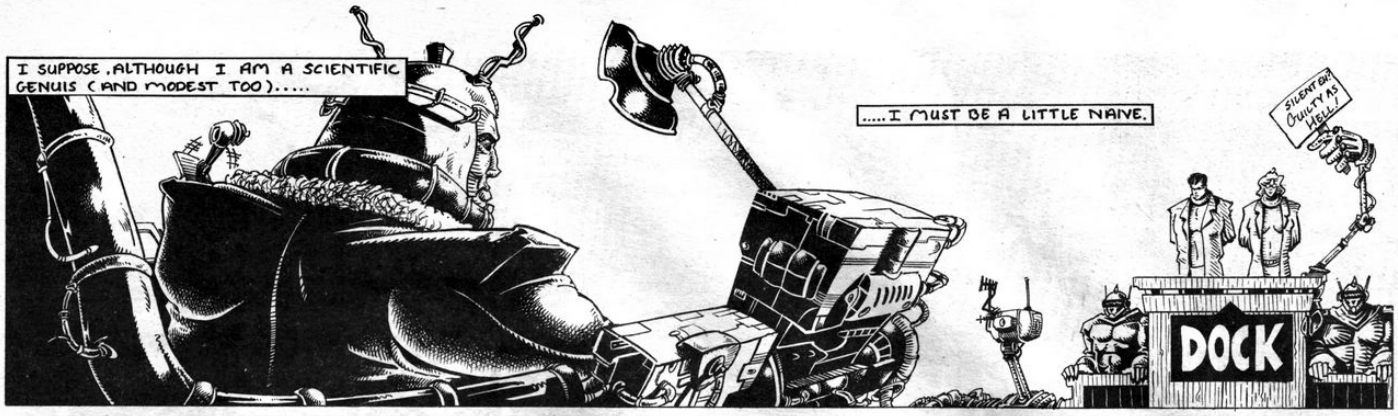
....BUT THEN, IT CAN'T REMAIN PARADISE FOR VERY LONG IF EVERYONE CAN GET IN.
EVERYONE IN THIS CASE BEING CUSTOMS AND EXCISE.

I GUESS THAT'S WHY PARADISE CAN NEVER LAST. WHY SALVATION MUST ALWAYS WAIT....
I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT WHEN THEY ACCUSED LOCKHART OF SMUGGLING GOLD AND DIAMONDS FROM SOUTH AFRICA.


I HATED HIM. COULD HE REALLY HAVE SPOILED OUR WORLD FOR BAUBLES?

THEN OUR PAYMASTERS CAME TO COLLECT THEIR DUE.....
.....ONCE THEY'D WORKED OUT WHAT THE MACHINE WAS FOR.
KEEP OUT

SALVATION'S GATE WAS CLOSED.
COOLER HOTEL
HUNTER, WHO HAD SOMEHOW GOTTEN AWAY, WEPT.


I SUPPOSE, ALTHOUGH I AM A SCIENTIFIC GENUIS (AND MODEST TOO).....
.....I MUST BE A LITTLE NAIVE.
SILENT BUT GUILTY AS HELL!
DOCK

LOCKHART ASKED FOR A WHOLE STRING OF OTHER OFFEN ES TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.
THE JUDGE JUDGED THAT SINCE THE GATE WAS BUILT ON COMPANY TIME, THEREFOR IT BELONGED TO THE COMPANY WHEREAS WE SELFISHLY (OF COURSE) HAD SOUGHT TO USE IT FOR PURPOSES WE DEEMED PREFERABLE.
MY LOVE FOR LOCKHART DIED IN THAT COURT.
THE JUDGE RAMBLED ON ABOUT HOW THIS INVENTION WHICH MAKES A MOCKERY OF PRIVACY, ALSO MOCKED NATIONAL INTERESTS, IMPORT AND IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS, AND SO ON WAS THEREFOREUNSUITABLE FOR THE MODERN WORLD.
HE THEREFORE ORDERED IT TO BE TAKEN FROM THE COURTROOM AND DESTROYED COMPLETELY.
ONLY THUS COULD THE STATUS QUO BE MAINTAINED.
AS FOR HUNTER, LIKE THE CHINESE SAGE HE CAN SEE THE WHOLE WORLD WITHOUT EVEN LEAVING HIS LIVING ROOM.

BUT I'VE COME TO THINK PERHAPS IT IS INEVITABLE THAT WE MAKE A HELL OF THIS WORLD.....
MEGACORPS
IN ORDER TO IMAGINE PARADISE IN THE NEXT.

A
ONE AT A TIME...
DEDICATED TO ALL TRAVELLERS WHO EVER GOT STUCK IN AN AIRPORT QUEUE
B

FIN

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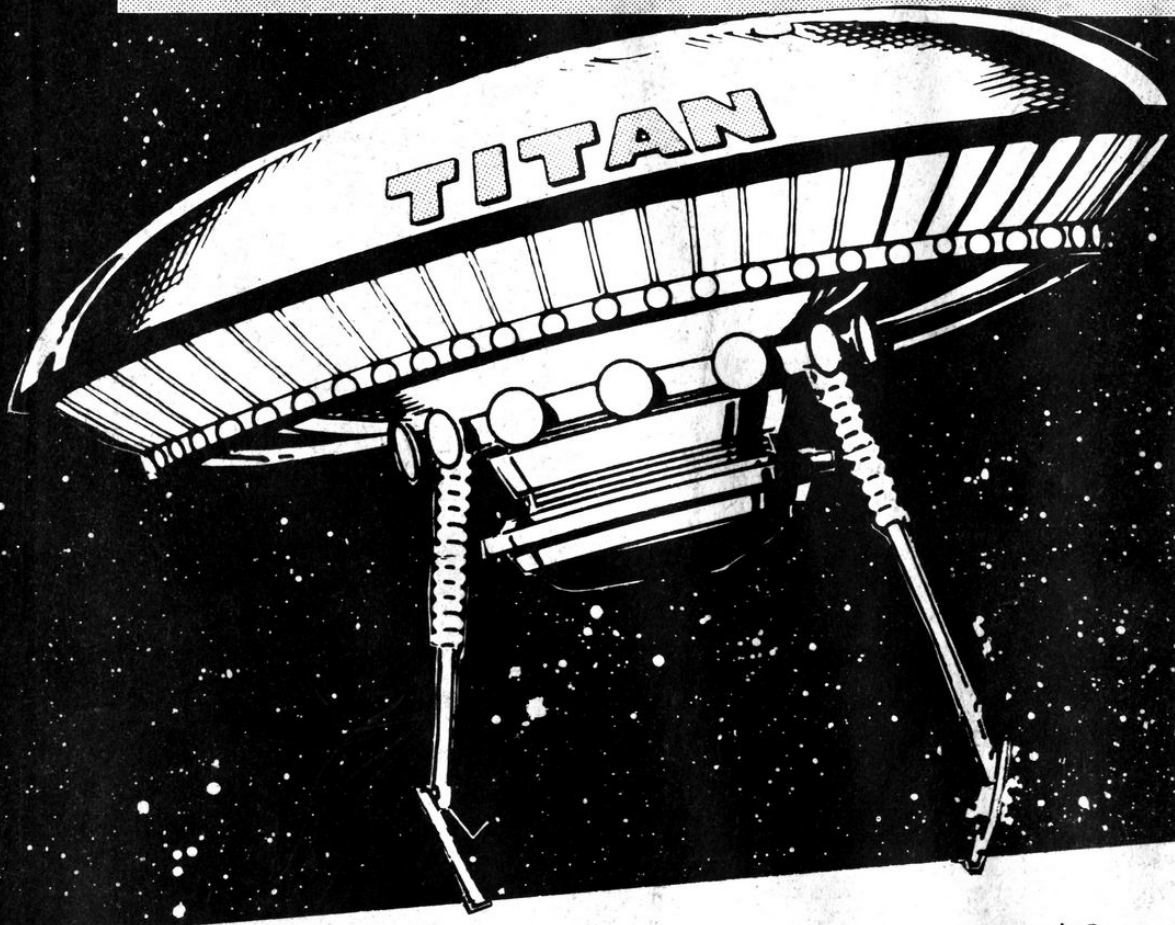

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